

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 09 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Sunday 10 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Saturday 09 Mar 2024 at 02:49

Confidence: High for easterly flow persisting to Monday, but lowering confidence for the cloud and precipitation detail, also for the transition to a westerly regime later in the week.

Headline for Saturday 09 Mar 2024: Rather cloudy with showers, these mainly later today. Best of shelter in west. Strong to gale easterly summit winds, bringing severe wind chill in 600-800m freezing level.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 09 Mar 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	Heavy persistent snow No Likelihood	Storm force winds No Likelihood
Gales Low Likelihood	Severe chill effect Medium Likelihood	Poor visibility Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	Heavy persistent rain No Likelihood	Strong sunlight

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
					
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability					
10%	20%	20%	50%	50%	50%

Forecast for Saturday 09 Mar 2024

Weather: A rather cloudy day with showers, scattered at first, turning more frequent this afternoon then merging to longer periods of snow and rain at times for the late evening. Snow level 500-700m. Best of the shelter and limited brighter spells expected across western areas of the Park.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% in west, 20% in east

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases quite extensive in the east from 800m, occasionally so in west.

Forecast for Saturday 09 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)				Wind Direction (blowing from)		
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	35/42 E	47/56 E	44/55 E	35/45 E	36/45 E	37/47 E	33/42 E
600	31/41 NE	33/43 E	33/45 E	27/37 E	26/36 E	26/37 E	22/32 E
300	14/33 NE	11/32 E	13/34 E	14/32 E	13/31 E	13/32 E	13/31 E
Valley	17/36 NE	16/38 NE	16/36 E	15/31 E	15/31 NE	14/32 NE	17/35 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-10	-1/-11	-0/-10	-0/-9	-0/-9	0/-8	-0/-9
600	0/-8	1/-7	2/-5	2/-5	2/-5	1/-6	1/-5
300	3/-2	4/0	5/1	5/1	4/-1	4/-1	3/-1
Valley	5/-0	6/2	7/4	8/4	6/2	6/2	6/2
Freezing Level*	600m	700m	900m	1000m	900m	1000m	1200m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill effect extended to mid-level routes.

Forecast for Sunday 10 Mar 2024

Weather: Cloudy with periods of snow and below 600m rain, for the morning. Breaking to showers for the afternoon, with some limited brighter spells developing in the west. Continued severe wind chill at height.

Maximum wind: East or northeast mean 25-30mph with gusts reaching 45mph across most exposed ridges and summits, easing a little for the afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% in west, 10% in east

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases extensive in the east from 800m, frequently so in west.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 Celsius increasing 9 Celsius for the afternoon
 At 800m: Zero Celsius
 Freezing level: 800m

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 8 March 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:36 Full report: A dry and windy day with cold north-westerly which were near-gale fore at times. Generally clear with some intermittent sunshine.

The snow level starts at roughly 600m, however, there is a marked difference between shaded north-facing slopes which often still have continuous snow cover, and more sunny south-facing slopes which are now often bare or with very small and fragmented snow patches. Snow depth increases with height from a couple of inches to boot deep (and deeper in drifted snow). Owing to a more easterly wind direction there is a reasonable amount of snow on the summit plateau and the condition of the snow was quite variable. In many places, it had a fragile melt-freeze crust and in other areas (particularly on the plateau) it was weight-bearing. Small cornices are also present around north and east-facing corrie rims. Swirral and Striding edge are a mixture of exposed rock, snow, and ice and require good care and judgment. Microspikes, crampons and an ice axe are strongly recommended. The windchill (feels-like) temperature on the top today was around -11C and anyone who stood still, even for short periods would get very cold very quickly. Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including spare warm layers, hats and gloves, and equipment including a map, compass, and headtorch are all essential. Microspikes and walking poles are also very useful in the current conditions.

Temperature: minus 1.7 C, Maximum wind speed 30.7 mph, Wind chill: minus 11.3 C, Average wind speed: 22.2 mph.

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